

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 212179
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:DANDERSON

APPROVED BY: S/S:DANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 212179

NODIS

CHEROKEE, EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 14330 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO WHITE HOUSE
02 SEP 77

QUOTE S E C R E T ROME 14330

NODIS

CHEROKEE/FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB FROM HOLMES

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, IT,EG

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE

REF: STATE 208008

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, I SAW PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI
ALONG SEPT 2. I EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM AND WHAT WE WANTED TO DO.

2. ANDREOTTI SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE VISIT TO ITALY NEXT
WEEK OF THE GE/LOCKHEED TEAM (PLUS DOD TECHNICIAN) FOR THE PUR-
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POSE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH AERITALIA AND AERMACCHI TO DISCUSS
THIS PROJECT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SO INFORM THESE ITALIAN
COMPANIES.

3. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY THE MIG-21 SERVICING COULD NOT BE
DONE IN THE U.S. AND THEN ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION WITH THE
EXPLANATION THAT THERE MUST BE "POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS". I NODDED

AFFIRMATIVELY.

4. ANDREOTTI THEN ASKED THAT THE GE/LOCKHEED TEAM EXERCISE MAXIMUM DISCRETION THROUGHOUT AND REQUESTED THAT THE TEAM EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF PERFORMING THE MIG AIR-FRAME MAINTENANCE IN EGYPT RATHER THAN IN ITALY. THE ENGINES PRESENT NO PROBLEM, HE SAID, BUT THE MIG CONFIGURATION IS NOT FAMILAR IN ITALY AND THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE MARKINGS WOULD ATTRACT ATTENTION. I RECOMMEND THAT THE TEAM EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY THOROUGHLY WE CAN ASSUME THAT ANDREOTTI WILL MENTION THIS TO AERITALIA.

5. IN CONCLUDING, ANDREOTTI RAISED AERITALIA'S WISH TO SELL G-222 AIRCRAFT (GE ENGINES, I BELIEVE) TO LIBYA, COMMENTING THAT THE MOMENT WAS CLEARLY NOT PROPITIOUS--GIVEN SADAT'S SITUATION--TO CONCLUDE SUCH A SALE WITH EGYPT'S HOSTILE NEIGHBOR. I AGREED. ANDREOTTI ADDED THAT DEPENDING ON HOW THE SITUATION DEVELOPS, PERHAPS THE JOINT EFFORTS OF GE/LOCKHEED AND AERITALIA ON THE MIG-21 PROJECT MIGHT "FACILITATE" THE G-222 SALE TO LIBYA, WITH DELIVERY IN 3 TO 4 YEARS. I DID NOT COMMENT.

6. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF HOW THE PROJECT DEVELOPS.GARDNER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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